

INSIDER'S EDGE: Issue 142: Dental Coverage for Former Foster Care Youth

Have you heard the news? The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [recently approved Maryland's HealthChoice Waiver Renewal](#). HealthChoice, first implemented in 1997 under the authority of Section 1115 of the Social Security Act (SSA), is Maryland's statewide mandatory managed care program for Medicaid enrollees.

The waiver renewal includes several new programs, including a new benefit for former foster care youth (age 21-25)—dental benefits!



Happy 21st birthday! Now you have access to dental care until you turn 26!

After Medicaid expansion in 2014, former foster care youth are eligible for Medicaid regardless of their income up to age 26. At that time, former foster care youth were eligible for dental services as part of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit until they turned 21. Today, these individuals may receive full dental benefits from age 21-25 with their existing Medicaid benefits. Eligible youth will receive a card from Scion, Maryland's dental benefit manager, that will enable them to use their benefits. Providers will be notified of the change as well.

What about everyone else? Managed Care Organizations have the option to cover dental benefits, and today, most offer limited dental benefits for adults ages 21-64. Pregnant women and children receive full dental coverage under the EPSDT benefit.

To learn more about the waiver renewal, [click here](#).

Questions? Send an email to dhmh.medicaidmarge@maryland.gov.